

K-C Docket No. 19,288
Serial No. 10/749,366
Response to Office Action Dated January 22, 2007

Recitation of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims

1. (original) A disposable garment, the disposable garment comprising:
 - an outer layer;
 - an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter and wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter;
 - wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer; and
 - wherein the outer layer and the elastic inner layer form a front waist region, a back waist region and a crotch region, wherein the crotch region connects the front waist region and the back waist region and the elastic inner layer has a width at a narrowest portion of the crotch region of equal to or less than 4 inches.
2. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter and the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer perimeter.
3. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is extensible.
4. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is elastic.
5. (withdrawn) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is liquid impermeable.
6. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is liquid permeable.

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7. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer has one or more pleats.
8. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in a longitudinal direction of the disposable garment.
9. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in a lateral direction of the disposable garment.
10. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction of the disposable garment.
11. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is liquid impermeable.
12. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer includes two or more layers of materials.
13. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable garment.
14. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer with a plurality of ultrasonic, adhesive or thermal bonds.
15. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the disposable garment has a longitudinal direction wherein the outer layer has a length in the longitudinal direction, the elastic inner layer has a length in the longitudinal direction and the outer layer length is greater than the elastic inner layer length.

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16. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the disposable garment has a lateral direction wherein the outer layer has a width in the lateral direction, the elastic inner layer has a width in the lateral direction and the outer layer width is greater than the elastic inner layer width.

17. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the disposable garment has a longitudinal direction, a lateral direction and a longitudinal side edge that includes a perimeter bonded area where the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer, wherein the perimeter bonded area has a percentage of bonded area to unbonded area of from 10 to 40.

18. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the disposable garment has a longitudinal direction and wherein the narrowest portion of the crotch region is toward the front waist region from a longitudinal centerline.

19. (withdrawn) A disposable garment, the disposable garment having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the disposable garment comprising:

an outer layer, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter, and wherein the outer layer is liquid impermeable;

an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter, and wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both the longitudinal direction and the lateral direction;

wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable garment;

wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer perimeter with a plurality of ultrasonic bonds; and

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wherein the outer layer and the elastic inner layer form a front waist region, a back waist region and a crotch region, wherein the crotch region connects the front waist region and the back waist region and the elastic inner layer has a width at a narrowest portion of the crotch region of equal to or less than 4 inches, wherein the narrowest portion of the crotch region is toward the front waist region from a longitudinal centerline.

20. (original) A disposable garment, the disposable garment comprising:

a stretchable outer layer;

an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter and wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter;

wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the stretchable outer layer; and wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer retraction value and the stretchable outer layer has a stretchable outer layer retraction value that is less than the elastic inner layer retraction value; and

wherein the stretchable outer layer and the elastic inner layer form a front waist region, a back waist region and a crotch region, wherein the crotch region connects the front waist region and the back waist region and the elastic inner layer has a width at a narrowest portion of the crotch region of equal to or less than 4 inches.

21. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the stretchable outer layer has a stretchable outer layer perimeter and the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the stretchable outer layer perimeter.

22. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the stretchable outer layer is extensible.

23. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the stretchable outer layer is elastic.

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24. (withdrawn) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the stretchable outer layer is liquid impermeable.

25. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the stretchable outer layer is liquid permeable.

26. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in a longitudinal direction of the disposable garment.

27. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in a lateral direction of the disposable garment.

28. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction of the disposable garment.

29. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the elastic inner layer is liquid impermeable.

30. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the elastic inner layer includes two or more layers of materials.

31. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable garment.

32. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the elastic inner layer is bonded to the stretchable outer layer with a plurality of ultrasonic, adhesive or thermal bonds.

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33. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the disposable garment has a longitudinal direction wherein the stretchable outer layer has a length in the longitudinal direction, the elastic inner layer has a length in the longitudinal direction and the stretchable outer layer length is greater than the elastic inner layer length.

34. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the disposable garment has a lateral direction wherein the stretchable outer layer has a width in the lateral direction, the elastic inner layer has a width in the lateral direction and the stretchable outer layer width is greater than the elastic inner layer width.

35. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the disposable garment has a longitudinal direction, a lateral direction and a longitudinal side edge that includes a perimeter bonded area where the elastic inner layer is bonded to the stretchable outer layer, wherein the perimeter bonded area has a percentage of bonded area to unbonded area of from 10 to 40.

36. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the disposable garment has a longitudinal direction and wherein the narrowest portion of the crotch region is toward the front waist region from a longitudinal centerline.

37. (original) A disposable absorbent garment, the disposable absorbent garment comprising:

- an outer layer;

- an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter and wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter;

- wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer;

- wherein the outer layer and the elastic inner layer form a front waist region, a back waist region and a crotch region, wherein the crotch region connects the front waist region and the back waist region and the elastic inner layer has a width at a narrowest portion of the crotch region of equal to or less than 4 inches; and

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an absorbent assembly positioned between the outer layer and the elastic inner layer, wherein the absorbent assembly includes a topsheet layer, a core layer and a barrier layer.

38. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter and the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer perimeter.

39. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the outer layer is extensible.

40. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the outer layer is elastic.

41. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the outer layer is liquid impermeable.

42. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the outer layer is liquid permeable.

43. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the outer layer has one or more pleats.

44. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in a longitudinal direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

45. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in a lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

46. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

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47. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the elastic inner layer is liquid impermeable.

48. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the elastic inner layer includes two or more layers of materials.

49. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable absorbent garment.

50. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer with a plurality of ultrasonic, adhesive or thermal bonds.

51. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the disposable absorbent garment has a longitudinal direction wherein the outer layer has a length in the longitudinal direction, the elastic inner layer has a length in the longitudinal direction and the outer layer length is greater than the elastic inner layer length.

52. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the disposable absorbent garment has a lateral direction wherein the outer layer has a width in the lateral direction, the elastic inner layer has a width in the lateral direction and the outer layer width is greater than the elastic inner layer width.

53. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the disposable absorbent garment has a longitudinal direction, a lateral direction and a longitudinal side edge that includes a perimeter bonded area where the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer, wherein the perimeter bonded area has a percentage of bonded area to unbonded area of from 10 to 40.

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54. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the disposable absorbent garment has a longitudinal direction and wherein the narrowest portion of the crotch region is toward the front waist region from a longitudinal centerline.

55. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 37, wherein the disposable absorbent garment has a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction and wherein the absorbent assembly is attached to the outer layer along a lateral centerline of the absorbent assembly.